U.S. Forest Service

RESEARCH NOTE

CENTRAL STATES FOREST EXPERIMENT STATION
COLUMBUS, OHIO R. D. LANE, DIRECTOR

INTERMOUNTAIN STATION
Central Reference File
No. 0.73

CS-24 December 1964

KENTUCKY PRODUCES 466 MILLION BOARD FEET OF LUMBER IN 1962

Annual lumber production in Kentucky has ranged from a high of nearly 1 billion board feet at the turn of the century to a low of 200 million board feet during the "Great Depression" of the 1930's (fig. 1). Modern-day highs of over 500 million board feet were recorded during World War II. Over the last decade annual output has fluctuated between 300 and 500 million board feet with lowest production occurring from 1957 through 1959.

In 1962 Kentucky's sawmills produced 466 million board feet of lumber--94 percent of it hardwood (table 1). About 45 percent of the lumber, 208 million board feet, was oak,

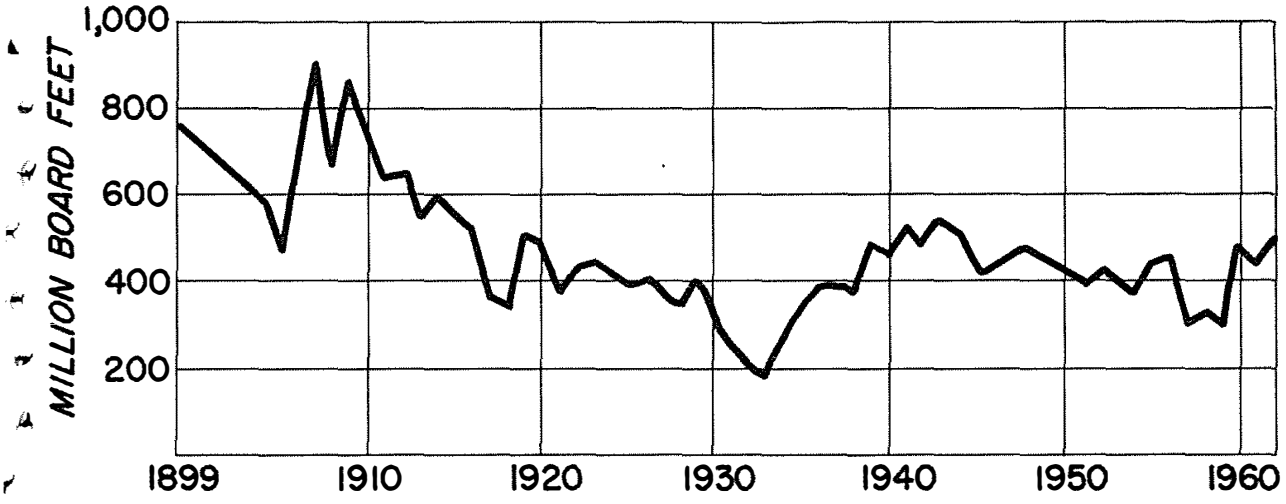

FIGURE 1.--Lumber production in Kentucky, 1899-1962. (Sources: Lumber production in the United States, 1799-1946, U.S. Dept. Agr. Misc. Pub. 669, 1948; lumber production statistics published by the U.S. Dept. Commerce; and estimates from various other sources.)

CENTRAL FILE COPY

three-fourths of which was cut from the various red oak species. Yellow-poplar, however, was the top-ranking single species. More than 75 million board feet of yellow-poplar lumber was produced during the year.

Table 1.--Kentucky lumber production by species--1962

Species	Million board feet	Percent of total
Softwoods		
Pine, shortleaf	12.2	2.6
Pine, Virginia	5.1	1.1
Redcedar	2.9	0.7
Other softwoods	6.1	1.3
All softwoods	26.3	5.7
Hard hardwoods		
Oak, white	22.3	4.8
Oak, chestnut	19.2	4.1
Oak, other white	8.9	1.9
Oak, black, northern red, and scarlet	107.4	23.1
Oak, pin	12.7	2.7
Oak, other red	37.8	8.1
Ash	6.1	1.3
Beech	33.6	7.2
Walnut	11.6	2.5
Hickory	14.9	3.2
Maple, hard	13.2	2.8
Other hard hardwoods	5.0	1.1
All hard hardwoods	292.7	62.8
Soft hardwoods		
Basswood	8.5	1.8
Blackgum	5.9	1.3
Cottonwood	9.7	2.1
Maple, soft	15.1	3.2
Sweetgum	11.9	2.6
Sycamore	13.1	2.8
Yellow-poplar	75.1	16.1
Other soft hardwoods	7.5	1.6
All soft hardwoods	146.8	31.5
All species	1/ 465.8	100.0

1/ The Kentucky lumber production total shown here (466 million board feet) coincides with the official Federal Government estimate reported by the U.S. Bureau of the Census in the publication "Lumber Production and Mill Stocks, 1962."

Softwood lumber production amounted to 26 million board feet with shortleaf pine accounting for just under half of this total. A westward shift in the concentration of Kentucky lumber production can be seen when 1962 totals by county are compared with those reported by the Bureau of the Census in 1947. More than half of the lumber output in 1947 came from the area east of U.S. Highway 27. Since then, production in this part of Kentucky has declined approximately 13 percent while production in the western part of the State has increased about 27 percent. In 1962 almost three-fifths of the total output came from the area west of Highway 27 (fig. 2).

In 1962 sixteen Kentucky counties each produced more than 10 million board feet and together accounted for half of the State's total output. Production exceeded 15 million board feet in each of eight counties (Allen, Bell, Clay, Harlan, Logan, Muhlenberg, Pulaski, and Rowan) and these eight counties, though containing fewer than 10 percent of the active sawmills in the State, produced 30 percent of the 1962 lumber output.

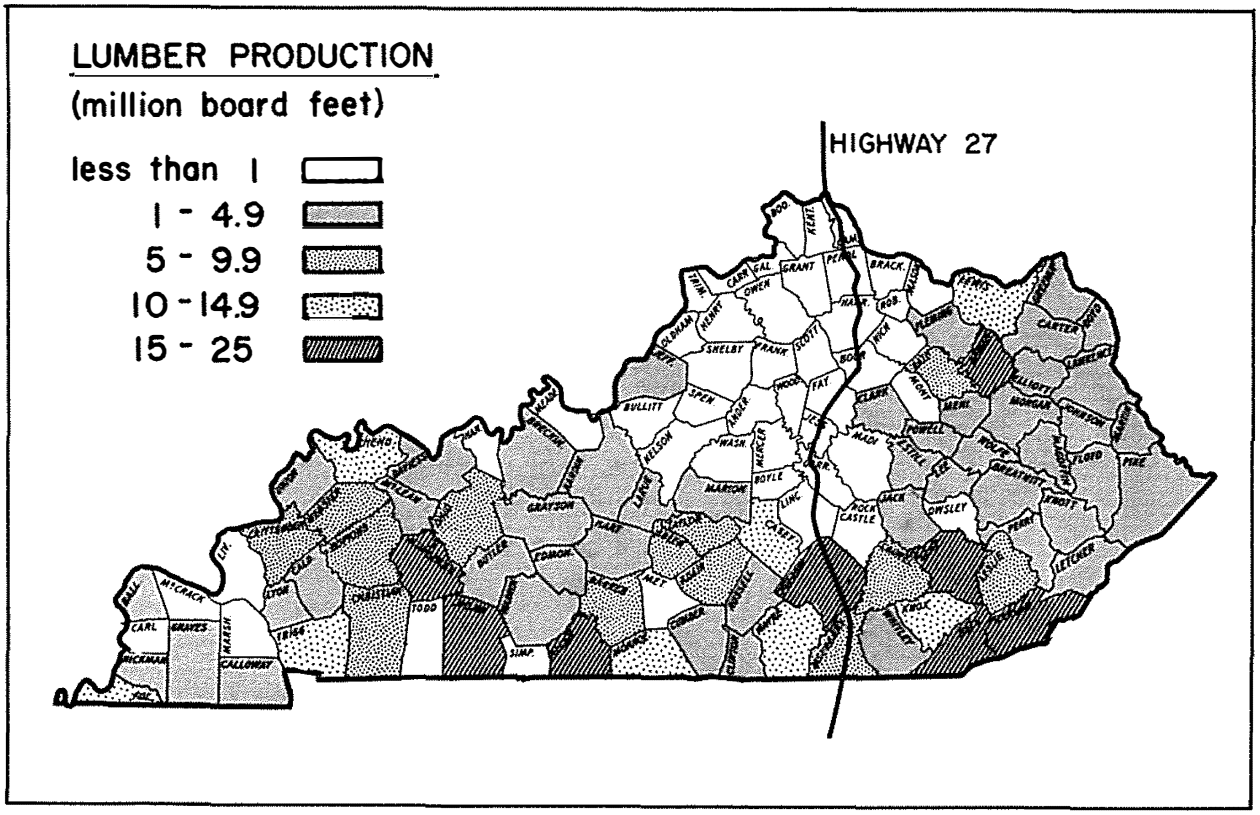

FIGURE 2.--Lumber production by county, 1962.

Production of some species was concentrated in certain areas. For example, cypress, cottonwood, soft maple, sweetgum, sycamore, and pin oak lumber was produced mainly in western Kentucky. The majority of yellow pine lumber (shortleaf, pitch, and Virginia) was produced in the Cumberland Region.

This is one in a series of reports presenting the new information gathered in the second comprehensive Forest Inventory of Kentucky. Lumber-production statistics for 1962 were gathered from all known active sawmills in Kentucky. The canvass was completed by the Division of Forestry, Kentucky Department of Natural Resources, and the U.S. Forest Service. A utilization summary and directory entitled "Primary Wood Industries of Kentucky" was published in April 1964. That publication and further information regarding the new inventory can be obtained by writing either the Division of Forestry, Kentucky Department of Natural Resources, or the Central States Forest Experiment Station.

David A. Gansner, research forester
Central States Forest Experiment Station
Columbus, Ohio

Robert G. Knutson, research forester
Lake States Forest Experiment Station
St. Paul, Minnesota